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SUBJECT: ADP Color Code for USIB?

1. The following is given as background material for the CODIB - proposed question whether USIB should follow DoD's decision to adopt a common color code for magnetic tape reels and possibly for punched cards, each color code representing a different security category.

2. During the DIA sponsored first world-wide IDHS (Intelligence Data Handling System) conference, July 1964, DIA proposed that a uniform color code be introduced for all DoD intelligence magnetic tape holdings. This proposal was approved by all conference delegates.

3. As a follow-up action, DIA sent out two messages (18 September 1964 No. 73910, corrected 25 September 1964, No. 76358) to all services and commands, requesting a inventory of tape holdings and color codes used. Answers to this request are contained in attachment I. It should be noted that DoD paper tape and punched cards holdings must be kept in red color. In effect this directive excludes red color from all but SAO material.

4. The DIA mentioned in paragraph 3 above was superceded by JCS message No. 1248, 27 October 1964, which requested similar information from all ADP organizations in the Services and the Commands as DIA had requested from DoD intelligence organizations exclusive. This JCS action was taken by the JCCRG (Joint Command and Control Requirements Group, Major Beck) with a view of establishing a common DoD color code. The JCS message requested completion of inventory to JCS by 30 November 1964. Here the matter rests for the moment. The final decision now is the responsibility of JCS rather than of DIA. The JCS message also raised the problem concerning degaussed SECRET tapes? How should the color code on degaussed SECRET tapes be handled? Current regulations

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prescribe (DoD instruction 65-3A, dated 24 November 1964, subject: ADP Security Procedures) that a degaussed magnetic tape must retain its original security classification. (This does not apply to SAO tapes which have their own regulations concerning handling of tapes.) The JCS message however implies that a degaussed tape may carry a different classification. For further consideration, JCS recommends consideration of using color labels on reels rather than color reels.

5. The DIA color code for magnetic tape is as follows:

- (a) SAO - red
- (b) SSO - yellow
- (c) SIOP - green
- (d) Top Secret - Gray (purple for Top Secret shipped outside DIA!)
- (e) Secret - white

6. This brings the background, as known to this writer, up to date. The following seems to be problems which have to be resolved by this Task Team.

a. Are USIB agencies exclusive of DIA willing or able to adopt a color code decided by JCS?

b. Are USIB agencies, additional to DIA, willing to submit an inventory on their current tape reels including reels on order and color codes used. This inventory would be supplemental to that finally arrived at by JCS. This total inventory of DoD and USIB would provide CTT IX for basis of evaluations of problems involved in adopting a common USIB color code.

c. If a common USIB color code ultimately is adopted, how should it apply? Should it apply to all reels used or should it apply only to reels shipped between agencies?

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d. The background discussion given above shows that, in some cases at least, (e.g. SAO) color code applies not only to magnetic tape reels but also paper reels and to punched cards. Should this question be considered by CTT IX?

e. Should this Task Team submit recommendations considering the degaussed tapes?

f. In view of the questions raised in paragraph e above, there is a question in the mind of the Chairman of CTT IX whether this group is capable of undertaking the tasks or whether this Task Team has the technical ability or organizational responsibility to undertake this problem effectively.

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